

LOWER COLUMBIA – WHITE SALMON RIVER TULE FALL CHINOOK

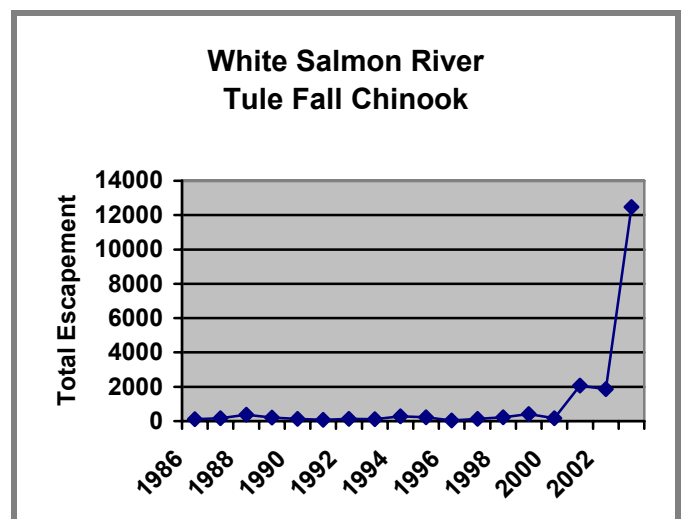
STOCK STATUS

1992 STATUS	2002 STATUS
Depressed	Depressed

STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: **Poor**

YEAR	TOTAL ESCAPEMENT
1986	116
1987	161
1988	382
1989	205
1990	124
1991	67
1992	132
1993	105
1994	283
1995	222
1996	38
1997	124
1998	223
1999	401
2000	167
2001	2,077
2002	1,859
2003	12,471



Data are total escapement estimates based on peak live plus dead spawner counts from the Condit Dam powerhouse (RM 3.3) downstream to the confluence with the Columbia River. Data usefulness for rating stock status is poor because of poor visibility in the river during fall Chinook surveys.

Although escapement increased in 2001, stock status is rated **Depressed** in 2002 due to **chronically low** escapements. Loss of historic spawning habitat above Condit Dam may contribute to poor stock performance.

STOCK DEFINITION

White Salmon River tule fall Chinook were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution, spawning timing, appearance (dark color and pale flesh on freshwater entry characteristic of tule fall Chinook) and age composition (four-year-old spawners predominate).

SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION: Spawning is confined to the lower three miles of mainstem White Salmon River below Condit Dam.

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SPAWNING TIMING: Spawning generally occurs in October, earlier than in the White Salmon River bright fall Chinook.

GENETIC ANALYSIS: No genetic analysis has been done on White Salmon River tule fall Chinook.

STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **mixed** stock with **composite** production. The White Salmon River tule fall Chinook stock is represented both in wild spawners and in local hatchery programs. Tule fall Chinook are native to the White Salmon River. They were used as broodstock to create the Spring Creek Hatchery tule fall Chinook program in 1901. Spring Creek fish have been recovered in the White Salmon River.